Mat-Su Monitor

December 2014 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 2

Art Around Campus

by Lori Leahy

I agreed to write this article about the art around the campus, and I thought, "No problem, there are just a few paintings here and there." But then I got to talking to some folks and found out that there is actually a lot more art here than meets the eye. So what I'm going to share with you here is just a glimmering of all the myriad artwork on display, and art in creation, and art potential that I discovered on my brief campus tour.

Mat-Su art student hard at work.

My first stop was to talk with managing theater director, Matt Sale. As well as being the director of the theater department, Sale has also been given the honor of heading up the committee that will pick the artwork for the new addition to the college, The Glenn Massey Valley Center for Arts and Learning. Sale says that Alaskan artists will be allowed to submit a mock-up or draft of artwork to the committee, which will then review the art before deciding which pieces will be purchased for the new center. An initiative by the State of Alaska, called, "The Percent for Art in Public

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Harkening Spirit with artist and creator Gene Stotts

The Glenn Massay Theater Opening and Events: Inquiring Minds Want to Know

By Lori Leahy

Since we've all been waiting with baited breath to hear the official FYI on the opening of the new theater and what the line-up of events will be, I spoke with Dr. Coleberg, College Director. And not only was he very forthcoming with all that he could reasonably tell me, he gave me a sneak peak of the new grand venue. (Shhh, I may even show you some pictures.)

So the official word on the opening date is: no word yet. But I can tell you that it is getting really close. It would not be fair to give an exact opening date because as we all know, events do occur, especially when one is trying to plan an event. So no performances have been scheduled for January, but a few things have been set optimistically for February. At this point the construction crew is working feverishly on what appear to be the cosmetics of the building; walls are up and chairs are installed in the auditorium, complete with fold-out desks for lectures as well as lighting apparatuses hanging from the majestic ceiling in the auditorium. The cat-walks are ready to walk, the orchestra pit has been sunk; the stage has been set--a splendid hall 'tis to be!

The grand opening celebration is intended as the earliest event of the year, but what exactly that is remains in the planning stage, all hinging on the official opening date. Once it is known, this gala will be publicized for all who wish to attend.

One of the main factors causing the delay of the opening is the water tower that will provide water for the fire sprinkler system. Until that is operational and has passed code certification, the doors will remain shut. But they are getting close!

Upon conferring with Matt Sale, Theater Coordinator, I was informed that the schedule through the end of May is by now almost completely booked. The theater is working with Whistling Swan Productions--who books a lot of concerts in Anchorage-- and they are thrilled about the new venue, as they have been placing most of their concerts for the Mat-Su area at Vagabond Blues in Palmer, and these shows are usually sold out due to space constraints. Whistling Swan has a whole list of great performances scheduled for this coming spring at the college (these can be seen on their web-site).

Sale is really enthusiastic about the great line-up so far, some of which include the return of Luna Fest, a women's conference featuring films by, for, and about women. This is being expanded to a two day event this year. The first day of this will be a benefit to support the Breast Cancer Association and is being put on by My House of Wasilla. Day two will

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Commemorating Dr. Vandever (1944 - 2014)

by Jacob Mann

Dr. Jan Vandever spent 10 years as a full time mathematics teacher here at the Mat-Su College. After nearly 50 years of teaching, she had just recently retired before her death. Jan was known well for her deep knowledge and dedication to her craft. Students readily relied on her knowledge and support for Math throughout her career. "...there was always a core group of students who would do their homework in a classroom near Jan's office so that they could ask for her patient help and guidance," said Julie Larson, a close friend of Jan.

Dr. Jan J. Vandever was born on October 28, 1944 in Newark, New Jersey and died on October 1, 2014, under hospice care inside the Providence Hospital in Anchorage, after a long fight against cancer. She is survived by her sister, Nancy Rogers, of Manchester, New Jersey; her nephew, James Dean, from Newtown, Pennsylvania; and her niece, Donna Holt, from Hollsville, Texas.

Raised in New Jersey, Jan graduated from Lakewood High School then attended Monmouth College in West Long Branch. While still a college student, she landed her first mathematics teaching job at St. Mary's School, Middletown, New Jersey.

After graduating from Monmouth College in 1967, with a BS in Elementary Education, Jan taught mathematics in grades 9-12, in addition to serving as the Mathematics Coordinator/Supervisor for Burlington, NJ Township Schools until 1974. Jan went on to earn a Master of Education in Mathematics Education from Rutgers University in 1971, a Master of Arts in Teaching in Mathematics from Colorado State University in 1973, as well as a Ph.D. in Measurement and Statistics from the University of North Dakota in 1976.

Jan taught from 1981-2003 for South Dakota State University. Upon retiring, she received Professor Emeritus of Mathematics status. After retiring from SDSU, she taught for 10 years at the Matanuska-Susitna College in Palmer, Alaska.

> "I took Jan Vandever for College Algebra, and didn't stop until I ran out of classes I could take with her (Calc II). She is absolutely amazing. One of the best teachers I've ever had in my life."

Jan won many awards for teaching: her Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at SDSU, the Larson Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, the F. 0. Butler Award for Outstanding Service to Students, and the Cushman-Breitwieser Award for Outstanding Research, Teaching, and Service. Most recently, Jan was inducted into the Lakewood High School Hall of Fame for her achievements and dedication to teaching mathematics.

Jan enjoyed fishing and hunting during her South Dakota residency and she had often bow hunted with her father. After a trip to Alaska, she decided that she wanted to live there. After returning to home to South Dakota, she put all of her

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Each fall, the Mat-Su College Student Ambassadors staff tables where students exchange advice on succeeding in college for candy. These tips are later printed on sticker-paper and placed on yet more candy, which is distributed during Tips & Treats week. For the benefit of students who missed these tips the first time, we have reprinted them here, in a completely non-edible (or at least non-tasty) format.

Time Management

You will procrastinate. Just be smart about it.

- *Friends can wait if you have an exam coming your way.*

Prioritize your life (school, work..).

- *Video games can wait…*

Don't take all GE classes at once; take half and half.

- *Some things in life only come once. Be wise about what you choose.*

Have fun Saturday. Sunday is homework day. For some, church day as well.

- *Don't procrastinate - get things done ahead of time!*

Pace yourself while studying.

- *Make a daily chart of assignments to manage your study time and get assignments done before they are due.*

Take some time to relax. This is more important than you realize.

- *Study a little later after class if you can and do homework for an hour. It will help a lot with getting get done; a little at time.*

Have a planner for all your classes and due dates!

- *Do not procrastinate!*

Do your homework right when you get it, don't wait until the last minute.

Study Skills

- *Spend your time wisely.*

Make a schedule monthly, daily, and weekly. Plan ahead!

- *Get the HW app and use it. It's free.*

Read all the required chapters.

- *Make a set time to study and schedule frequent breads so it is not endless and overwhelming.*

If you have a hard time making yourself do homework, promise yourself a treat once you finish as an incentive (i.e. watch a favorite TV episode).

- *Study slowly throughout the semester and manage the time you have for studying that portion. It really lessens the burden when finals and exams roll around. Same with stress.*

Record your lectures (with instructor's permission) and take notes.

- *Just do it!*

Color code information as a memory trick.

- *Spend 1-3 hours a week outside of class for each hour spent in class.*

Always take one hour before bed to study!

- *Use erasable pens on a test.*

Every night sit down and open your class books and go over previous lessons even if you don't have homework if you want a high GPA.

- *Regardless of what level chemistry class you take, study your book and use YouTube if you still don't understand.*

Don't study high!

- *Always check your math signs.*

Work ahead every chance you get. It pays off big time.

- *Sit in the first few rows. Statistics show better performance.*

Campus Resources

Go to the library!

- *Get involved with Student Government.*

Having trouble with your budget? Go see the financial advisors; they're free and willing to help you figure out how to leave college with little debt.

- *Have your Wolf Card with you every day. You need it to print, check out items at the library and use it to purchase food at the café.*

The librarians are your best friends for research.

- *Go see an advisor at least once a semester.*

You can check out a laptop in the library (for in-library use only) if you forgot yours.

- *Professors are students too- they make mistakes and lead stressful lives. Bond with them, it is tremendously worthwhile.*

The library is a great resource.

- *Utilize the resources the college provides such as tutoring in the Learning Center (tLC).*

Visit your professors during their office hours.

Personal Health

Make it a priority once a month to soak in a tub and let yourself relax. You need time for yourself, too.

- *Get enough sleep! (6-8 hours)*

Good health = increased ability to learn.

- *Wash your hands, please.*

Water and rest is better than energy drinks.

- *Walk 40 minutes every day!*

Be conscious of your surroundings.

- *If there is a day you hate most in a week, you need to hate it less because that is 1/7 you your life that you hate.*

Drink water. Eat clean. Lift heavy.

- *Don't neglect your physical, emotional, and spiritual health in the pursuit of a grade or a dream.*

Brush your teeth.

The Most Critical Element of Deciding on a Career

by Karen Backlund

In the last issue I outlined the career services available to you at Mat-Su College. Many factors need to be considered when deciding on a career: training requirements, wages, employment outlook, advancement, characteristics of work place, nature of the work, physical demands, benefits, etc. Can you guess what the most critical element of career decision making is? That's right, it is YOU and there are many tools available to help you learn about yourself, your interests, values, abilities, skills, academic background, and personality. While formal and informal assessments are important, you are the best source of information and I enjoy interviewing you to mine the gems you have to offer your world. We can also review your personal and family situation as it relates to your career planning and development. Call 745-9762 to schedule an appointment to further discover the unique contributions you might offer and what motivates you to succeed.

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Online Tutoring: UAA Consortium LIbrary 1pm-midnight.Limited hours per student.

www.tutor.com/alaska
www.tutor.com/military for military families who qualify

Khan Academy: Videos (math, science, economics, history) http://www.khanacademy.org/

Foreign Language: http://libraries.mangolanguages.com/alaska/start (includes English)

ON MAT-SU CAMPUS AT THE LEARNING CENTER*

OLB121 745-9713

MATH
Mon 9:30-5:00
Tues 11:00-3:00 & 3:30-7:30
Wed 9:30-1:00 & 2:30-5:00
Thur 10:00-3:00
Fri 10:00-3:00

ASL
1:00-5:00

BIOLOGY
10:00-12:00

WRITING
Mon 12:30-3:00
Wed 12:30-3:00

*Tutoring is available only for students enrolled n MSC courses
Fall 2014 Hours are subject to change Tutors available Sept 8 - Dec 12
Please make appointment
http://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/the-learning-center/tutoring/

Mat-Su College's Three New Full-time Professors

By Lori Leahy

Mat-Su College has three new full time professors. Sal Pietromonaco is the new Assistant Professor of Chemistry; Johnny Kirby is a new professor in the Heating and Refrigeration department, and Lukasz Garbark is a mathematics professor. I was asked to chat with each of them to find out their respective stories. Here a summary of what I learned during my conversations, each fascinating in its own way:

Dr. Salvatore Pietromonaco
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Sal Pietromonaco is Mat-Su College's new addition to the chemistry department. An interesting fellow with an abundance to say, Sal was hired as the assistant chemistry professor; he and his wife recently moved to Alaska. Sal shared with me some points of his fascinating life story and his career as a scientist. He says he started his livelihood as a "science nerd" in high school, but then got his bachelors in science and chemistry, in Montreal, Canada, at McGill University. University life and all that was going on at the time in the 70s was thrilling, with the Vietnam War, the Francophone separatists in Quebec, and people defecting to Canada to avoid the Viet Nam draft.

After five years in Montreal and a really rough chemistry program, Sal says he was getting burned out, so he left school and worked for a chemical company in Montreal doing laboraty work. "I'm a lab–rat. I love teaching, but I also love the lab," says Sal. In 1979 he moved to Gainesville, Florida with his wife, and started graduate school at The University of Florida. Saying he chose Gainesville because he liked what was happening in the program with molecular evolution at that time. Sal was in the bio-chemistry department there and got his PHD in 1986. He then worked at Yale with a post-doctorate fellowship in the field of cell biology, which was exploding at that moment in time; from there, on to The University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, working at the cancer center.

During this time Sal's wife was teaching middle school and was getting tired of it, and suggested they try teaching abroad. "What am I going to do?" said Sal, "because lab research is not something that is easily done if you wind up in a country that doesn't have a good university system." So that is when he became certified in teaching. And off they went, first landing in London, and then on to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They arrived in Saudi Arabia two weeks before 9-11, which he says was pretty tense in the beginning, as movements as a foreigner were monitored, and they had to be careful where they went. They managed to travel around anyway; the local Saudis were wonderful, gracious people. Some even invited Sal and his wife to their tent to share a meal.

The next destination was Bangkok, Thailand, "the polar opposite of Saudi Arabia." Sal says "all the stories you hear are true. It's unbelievable, I love the culture", he says. "Just stay away from the typical seedy bars and you'll be ok." Sal and his wife got to travel all over Southeast Asia, including China. From there they went to the Philippines for a couple of years and then finally to Nairobi, Kenya. They found it hard to return to the U.S. at first, "My wife and I are kind of gypsies in a way," he says, but they have since adjusted.

Hired to help bolster the chemistry program, Sal hopes the program can continue to grow and draw more students, possibly with a bigger lab where other types of experiments can be performed. He is teaching survey of chemistry, general chemistry, 104 and 106, and the corresponding labs. Sal says teaching chemistry is difficult because people don't always get it at first. Usually those who have moved onto organic chemistry have finally gotten a grasp of it, and are starting to like it.

Sal says he's really excited to be here in Alaska and so far really likes the college and staff. He seems like a great addition to the college; a lot of knowledge and some fun stories to tell.

John Kirby, Assistant Professor of Refrigeration and Heating

Johnny Kirby is a new Refrigeration & Heating professor. Johnny, his wife, and two kids moved here from the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line. Johnny and his wife had lived in Alaska once before in the lower Yukon Delta, for one year and then had moved to the Palmer/Wasilla area to raise their kids. The family returned to the lower 48 when both Kirby and his wife's fathers got ill, but always loved Alaska, so returned as soon as they got the chance.

Kirby has a bachelor's degree in animal science from Oklahoma State, and had previously taught high school science but felt it was time to change careers. He really likes anything that is "hands on" and thought teaching heating would be a lot of fun. "Some doors were opening, and some were closing, so this is the door that opened." Kirby says he's glad he made the change since he is really enjoying it. Kirby himself is a graduate of the Mat-Su College Heating and Refrigeration program. When asked how he likes it here at the college, he says, "I love it. I enjoy working with my hands and I enjoy teaching, so here I get to do both. And the kids are really great. I loved going to school here, and now I'm enjoying teaching here," also adding that the staff has all been really helpful.

This semester Kirby is teaching a codes class, a job etiquette class, the fundamentals of forced air heat, and a basic controls class. Next semester he will be teaching advanced controls, sheet metal, and hydraulics. Kirby says that a student can be certified in heating in two years, but that there are different certification courses through NATE, a national certification program, where students can be tested against the national average, as part of the college program.

Kirby says that there is a group called "The American Society of Refrigeration and Engineering" that he was involved with when he went through the program, which he would like to see get going again. He'd like to see the students go outside the college to do some interesting things. He also hopes that the number of students in the program grows. But his main goal, he says, "is to help to ensure that when a student goes through the program here that I have done the best possible job I can to make sure they are successful."

When asked what his passions are, he says that would have to be his family, spending time with his kids, fishing, hunting, and his church. But he's also just glad to be back here and part of this college as well as being back in Alaska.

Dr. Lukasz Grabarek, Assistant Professor of Mathmatics

Lukasz Grabarek is Mat-Su College's most recent addition to the Mathematics Department. Originally from Poland, Grabarek's family moved to Chicago when Lukasz was a child, and it was here that he went to college.

He then moved to Hawaii and "lived a bunch of years" and lectured at the University of Hawaii. On Math, I asked? Always on Math, he said. "I am a mathematician by trade. It has always been my thing." Grabarek says he has taught math since his 1st year in graduate school, and always knew he'd do math. "I wasn't part of math teams in high school or anything, but my Grandparents say I always wanted to be a mathematician".

Grabarek says he likes math because it's a very rewarding subject; the more time you put

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Continued from page 4 *New Professors*

into it, the better you get at it. "But you have to keep using it all the time," he says. "This happens at all levels, not just to students. From the professors' and researchers' point of view, it's exactly the same idea-- you must pay attention to the idea or you'll lose it; you have to study." He says, "it's not the correct point of view to learn it just so you can pass the test, but rather you are teaching yourself to get through a fairly difficult situation." In the military they make you take calculus and chemistry just to train you to get through things that are difficult.

When asked, "Why Alaska?" Grabarek says Alaska was one of a couple of different choices. Admittedly, he looks for jobs in places he likes and wants to live. Hawaii was one place he really wanted to live and even stayed there after the job finished. When he came up to Alaska for a job interview in May he saw it was a place he really liked so was glad when the job was offered.

An avid hiker and ice climber, Grabarek has climbed Pioneer Peak and Matanuska Peak, and is anxious to see more of Alaska as soon as he has some time--although this year he plans to visit family in Chicago between semesters. He tries to go to Poland every other year also, to visit family. And although he really likes to visit, he would never want to live there. "This is home now", He says. "Life is harder there economically, and jobs are scarce," and adds, "the culture is different; people behave differently and have different expectations".

Another of Grabarek's pastimes is reading in German or Polish to keep his skills sharp, or just to see how much of it he can understand. He grew up speaking Polish, but learned German later in life. An additional hobby is video games. But Grabarek says his perspective has shifted—once enjoying playing video games mindlessly for hours, now he find himself sort of criticizing what's going on. "If I just knew how I could do it better," he says.

Content to be here in Alaska teaching math at Mat-Su College, Grabarek says he would like to see the Math Club resurrected. He's not sure what all that entails, but would like to see it be student-run, with it being a social club that emphasizes math. He'd also like to see the math students preparing for national math competitions at the college level, and possibly some student to student tutoring.

Currently teaching algebra 107 and applied math, as well as working with the Refrigeration and Heating department teaching math, Grabarek says he plans on staying here. "I'm happy here. I don't really have a plan to leave, but if for some wreason, I was not able to work here, I would stay in Alaska for a while."

Get involved with YOUR paper!

The Mat-Su Monitor is open to students of all experience levels. A paper like ours always needs writers, artists, graphic designers, advertisement coordinators, photographers, and more (maybe you can contribute something we haven't even thought of)!

Meetings: Mondays and Thursdays, 12:00 to 12:50, in OLB 214 (upstairs in library).

The Mat-Su Library Network is now part of the Joint Library Catalog. Your public library card will work at the Mat-Su College Library.

Enroll in Affordable Care Act insurance with local help

By K.T. McKee

Open Enrollment for the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) is happening now and runs until February 15. Do you know if you qualify? Below is a simple checklist. You might qualify for ACA health insurance and Advanced Premium Tax Credits/Cost-Sharing Reductions if:

1. You are not currently covered or offered health insurance through an employer, Medicare, Medicaid, VA, or COBRA.

2. Your income is between 100% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level for Alaska. For a single person, that would be an adjusted gross income for 2015 of between $14,580 and $58,320. The closer your income is to that bottom figure, the more help you would get paying for the insurance through tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. For a family of 2, it would be $19,660 to $78,640; for a family of 4, it would be $29,820 to $119,280. Add $5,000 for each additional family member to calculate beyond that. If your income falls below the bottom figure, you would not qualify for the tax credits, but you might qualify for Medicaid if Governor Walker expands Medicaid for our state.

3. You are not offered health insurance through a spouse's employer.

4. You are a legal U.S. Citizen or permanent resident (possess a Green Card, etc. for at least five years).

5. You are not incarcerated.

6. Your parents qualify for ACA coverage and you are under age 26.

Many of those who do qualify for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace (Affordable Care Act) have found policies for as little as $0 or less than $100 per month and have deductibles of less than $1,500 per year.

Those who continue to go without health insurance and are not considered exempt will face increasing fees when they file their taxes in 2016. Those who aren't covered in 2015 (and should be) will pay a one-time fee of $325 for themselves and $162.50 for each uninsured child or 2 percent of their income (minus the tax-filing threshold) – whichever is greater.

To some, that might not seem like much to pay for the right to go uninsured. But if something unexpected happens (heart attack, cancer, surgery, car accident, etc.), those without insurance will face mounting medical bills that will go far beyond what it would have cost them to be insured. It's just not worth the risk.

Those who are under the poverty level and have not yet qualified for Medicaid will be exempt from the fee for not having insurance. There are other hardship exemptions available. Please go to healthcare.gov for more information.

For free help applying for Affordable Care Act coverage, please call me (Kate) at Mat-Su Health Services at 352-3225 for an appointment. If you enroll in a plan by Dec. 15, your coverage will start Jan. 1. If you enroll between Dec. 16 and Jan. 15, your coverage would start Feb. 1. If you enroll between Jan. 16 and Feb. 15, your coverage would start March 1 and you would not be penalized for not being covered in January and February.

K.T. (Kate) McKee is a Certified Application Counselor for the Affordable Care Act at Mat-Su Health Services, Inc., at 1363 W. Spruce Ave., in Wasilla. Mat-Su Health Services is a Federally-Qualified Health Center that provides both primary medical care and behavioral health care.

Black Thursday Discounts, Deaths, and Disarray - a Holiday Tradition

by Jacob Mann

11/28/2014 - Black Friday is starting early this year. Macy's, Walmart, Target, J.C. Penney and other major retailers have announced that they plan to open their doors for Black "Friday" on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day - at 6pm.

While most families begin carving their turkeys, dedicated shoppers will be lined up at the department store doors, pouring out into the parking lot. This is two hours earlier than last year.

Black Friday is commonly seen as the beginning of Christmas shopping. In the past, it occurred the day after Thanksgiving (the fourth Thursday in November). Most of the department stores have opened earlier and earlier in the recent years. Macy's stated to the Star Tribune that the idea of a "Black Thursday" appeals to both consumers and employees who volunteer to work Thanksgiving Day, "We also heard last year from many associates who appreciated the opportunity to work on Thanksgiving so they could have time off on Black Friday."

consumerism
[kuh n-soo-muh-riz-uh m]
Examples Word Origin
noun
1. a modern movement for the protection of the consumer against useless, inferior, or dangerous products, misleading advertising, unfair pricing, etc.
2. the concept that an ever-expanding consumption of goods is advantageous to the economy.
3. the fact or practice of an increasing consumption of goods.

According to a Time Magazine article from 2013, last year's Black Friday Shopping Spree was "calm." Here's the title: "Calm Black Friday: Only 1 Death, 15 Injuries Attributed to Big Shopping Day."

There is a website that tracks the deaths and injuries which resulted from Black Friday shopping called "blackfridaydeathcount.com." The most injuries occurred in 2011, with two separate pepper spray incidents injuring 20 shoppers each. But 2008 was the most dangerous year - three people were killed trying in the name of consumer goods. One of the most infamous of the Black Friday incidents is also attributed to 2008, when a Wal Mart employee was trampled to death by 2,000 people, rushing inside to shop. Two men also shot each other in a Toys 'R' Us that year.

According to Macy's, the popularity of Black Friday and earlier open times was based on "significant, sustained customer interest." Ramesh Swamy, a retail partner at Deloitte, stated that when he approached people waiting in lines, some didn't have a particular strategy or game plan.

"It was interesting to see that some customers were simply out to be part of the experience. It's more of a tradition that's forming than anything else," he said

2013	Teen returning home from Black Friday shopping fell asleep at wheel, killed in wreck	1	4
2013	Man Stabbed During Black Friday Event at Carlsbad Mall	-	1
2013	Newport, Arkansas Walmart employee injured during Black Friday sales	-	1
2013	Scenes of chaos during chain store's Black Friday sales in Northern Ireland	-	1
2013	Several injured in Black Friday-related shooting outside Kohl's in Illinois	-	2
2013	Black Friday: Virginia Man Stabbed In Walmart Parking Lot Over Space	-	1
2013	Rialto Walmart brawl sends one police officer to hospital	-	1
2013	Shopper carrying TV home from Target shot in Las Vegas	-	1
2012	Father charged in crash that killed daughters after Black Friday shopping	2	5
2012	Two People Shot at Tallahassee Walmart Over Parking Space	-	2
2012	Black Friday Shoppers Hit By Suspected Drunk Driver In Walmart Parking Lot	-	2
2011	Girl trampled in Black Friday Wal-Mart rush	-	1
2011	Black Friday Worker Rescued From Canal After Losing Control Of Car Due To Exhaustion	-	1
2011	Black Friday: Target Shoppers Step Over Walter Vance As He Collapses, Dies	1	-
2011	Fights break out at Rome Walmart during Black Friday shopping	-	2
2011	Woman Wounded in South Carolina Black Friday Robbery Attempt	-	1
2011	Off-duty police pepper spray North Carolina shoppers	-	20
2011	Shooting outside California Walmart, 1 wounded	-	1
2011	Los Angeles area Black Friday pepper-spray attack at Walmart injures 20	-	20
2010	Transwoman assaulted at Kohl's Department Store in Jackson, TN	-	1
2010	Former Marine stabbed in Best Buy store by violent customer	-	1
2009	Clarksville Woman Trampled During Black Friday Shopping	-	1
2008	Southern California Toys 'R' Us Shooting Leaves Two Dead	2	2
2008	Worker dies at Long Island Wal-Mart after being trampled in Black Friday stampede	1	4
2006	10 Injured in Southern California Black Friday Mall Stampede	-	10
2006	Salt Lake Tribune, The : Red-hot on Black Friday	-	1

Here's some data regarding the recent years of Black Friday Shopping:

Last year, Wal-Mart had more than 22 million shoppers on Thanksgiving Day, said former CEO Bill Simon

89 million shoppers showed up on Black Friday 2012, 86 million more than 2011

10% of shoppers on Black Friday 2012 appeared at the stores by 8 p.m. on Thursday and an estimated 28% of weekend shoppers were at the stores by midnight, compared to 24.4% in 2011

Total Spent:

Total Consumer Spending on Black Friday (2012): $59 Billion
Total Consumer Spending on Black Friday (2011): $52.4 Billion
Total Consumer Spending on Black Friday (2010): $45 Billion

Average Consumer Spending (per person):

Average consumer spending on Black Friday (2010) = $365.34 per person
Average consumer spending on Black Friday (2011) = $398.62 per person
Average consumer spending on Black Friday (2012) = $423 per person

materialism
[muh-teer-ee-uh-liz-uh m]
Examples Word Origin
noun
1. preoccupation with or emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations, with a disinterest in or rejection of spiritual, intellectual, or cultural values.

Sources:

Black Friday By The Numbers. http://www.accounting-degree.org/black-friday/
Black Friday Death Count. http://blackfridaydeathcount.com
Dictionary.com http://dictionary.reference.com/
Macy's to Open Its Doors at 6 P.M. on Thanksgiving Day. http://www.nbcnews.com/business/consumer/macys-open-its-doors-6-p-m-thanksgiving-day-n225451

Secret Campsite
by
Richard Leif

Sharpe's Scroogy Christmas Guide

by Michelle Sharpe

Well, the time is upon us -- the holiday season. A time when Christmas and winter movies are rampant and you will most likely spend endless hours watching those holiday movies in order to get into the spirit of the festivities. Don't worry, I've got a great list of some of my favorite holiday movies for people who love the holidays and people who can't wait for the new year. Don't worry, my dear Buddies and Scrooges alike, I've got you all covered.

1. Christmas Vacation (1989): This Chevy Chase movie is a must for every holiday season. Whether you love the holiday season or couldn't care less, this is the movie for you. Not only can every family relate to the shenanigans that the Griswold family have to endure throughout this movie, you will watch this movie and realize "Well, my Christmas could be worse." Rated: PG-13

2. Scrooged (1988): In this 1988 modern update of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, Bill Murray plays Frank Cross, a rude and selfish TV executive who gets haunted by three ghosts on Christmas Eve in order for him to see how his actions affect the people around him in the past, present, and future. If you're tired of the same old Holiday movie or need a little bit of dark comedy in your life this season, give this movie a try. Rated: PG-13

3. Gremlins (1984): Feel like traumatizing some younger children this holiday season? Give this movie a try! This movie is about a small town getting terrorized by little green monsters hell-bent on destruction, cloning, and singing Snow White songs! Also, there is an adorable little creature named Gizmo. Check it out. Rated: PG

4. A Christmas Story (1983): This recommendation goes without saying. This movie is a classic and no holiday season will be complete without it. "You'll shoot your eye out, kid!"

5. Love Actually (2003): Fan of star-studded British comedies? Not sure? Give this movie a try. It will make you smile, it will make you laugh, it might even make you cry. But most of all, it will make that Mariah Carey song more bearable. Rated: R

6. Nightmare Before Christmas (1993): This wonderfully dark Disney movie is sure to spread both Christmas and Halloween cheer. You will most likely be singing some very non-holiday sounding songs, such as *Kidnap the Sandy Claws, What's This?*, and *This is Halloween*. This is a great family movie. If you've never seen it, what are you waiting for? Rated: PG

7. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966): Forget the Jim Carey version, classics are better!

8. Simon Birch (1998): Not really a holiday movie, but this movie about a boy's faith and his friendship will be sure to make you laugh and cry. Rated: PG

9. Anastasia (1997): Not a holiday movie, but it does take place in the winter and it is all about finding family. It also has some awesome musical numbers. If you are not one who celebrates the holidays but wants a great seasonal movie to watch with your family, this is a great movie for you.

10. Edward Scissorhands (1990): This odd tale of how snow came to a small town is sure to delight everyone. It's a Tim Burton movie, so expect an unusually odd and heartwarming movie.

Happy Holidays everyone! Hope this guide was helpful and that you all have a great end of the year!

"Rocking Horse" by Marie Fremlin

Artwork by Crystal Bruns

These works of art were produced by students in Barbara Laucius's Art Appreciation class. The assignment was 'Sculpture from Nothing.' Students were given 10 recycled items and told to find 10 more recycled items of their own choosing. And then – create!

Inspire: To arouse the mind or emotions of; to stimulate; impel.

How many of us are moved by a compliment of another, or encouraged to complete a hard task? Learning something new also inspires us to learn more or and to expand our vision of our lives. Many of you are here at Mat-Su College because you were inspired. You are becoming smarter, serving your community with new knowledge. You yourself is an inspiration to all those around you. Rachel Goodall.

Year in History

Oct 13th 1997

Andy Green jet powered car reaches record 749.69 miles per hour

January 14, 2005

Huygens probe lands on Saturn's moon Titan.

February 14th 1908

Gabriel Lippman introduces the new three dimensional color photography at the academy of sciences.

October 16, 1869

A hotel in Boston became the first in the US to install indoor plumbing.

November 9, 1951

Lou Ferrigno's Birthday. He is the original "Incredible Hulk"

Advertisers sought!

The Mat-Su Monitor is the student newspaper of Matanuska-Susitna College. With a circulation of about 7,000, an educated readership, and affordable rates, it is the perfect place to adevertise your business, cause, or event. For details, call 745-9740, email mwmuer@matsu.alaska.edu, or visit http://bit.ly/1d1nLwR

ART DEPARTMENT EVENTS

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STUDENT ART SHOW

Nov. 21 - Dec. 11, 2014

Juried Art Show.

Drop off: January 6 to 8, 2015

Show: Jan. 14 to Feb. 11, 2015

Juried art show opened to all artists, in any medium, from around the valley. Rules and application will be posted on the Mat-Su UAA Art Department Facebook page or can be picked up outside of the Mat-Su Art department office.

High School Portfolio Contest

Portfolio review day Feb. 4, 2015
Drop off dates Feb. 9-12, 2015
Winner announced: Feb. 18 Show
Feb. 18– Mar. 18, 2015

This contest is open to High school students. Students have the opportunity to be awarded a one-year full tuition scholarship to Mas-Su College,

Seniors only

Rules and application will be posted on the Mat-Su UAA Art Department Facebook page or can be picked up outside of the Mat-Su Art t department office.

Dr. Felicia M. Desimini,
Assistant Professor
Art Department Coordinator
Director, Machetanz Arts Festival
Office: 745-9755
fdesimini@matsu.alaska.edu

http://matsu.alaska.edu/departments/fine-arts/

Mat-Su Area UAA Alumni Chapter

Members Carol Gustafson and David Johnson caught up during a recent Meet & Greet held at Vagabond Blues in Palmer on November 15th. The two were former classmates in a 2011 Honors class studying Chinese-American History with Mat-Su College Director Dr. Talis Colberg. Both UAA grads are still active on several campuses attending a variety of classes. Carol studies history primarily and is a Teacher's Assistant for a Kindergarten class while David pursues a degree in Environment and Society. The group is planning another get together soon.

Sharpe's Recipe of the Month Pumpkin Cheesecake

Greetings reader! Do you love cheesecake? Do you love pumpkin? Do you know someone who hates both? This recipe is a must for the holiday season. I made this recipe for the first time last Thanksgiving, and it was a hit amongst the family members who did not like either pumpkin pie or cheesecake. As someone who loves cheesecake, this is my favorite recipe. It's spicy, creamy and fluffy. This easy recipe makes about 8 servings.

Prep Time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Ingredients:

Crust-
- 1 ¾ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 stick melted butter
- (Optional: Pinch of nutmeg and cloves)

Filling-
- 3 (8-ounce) Packages cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 (15-ounce) Can pureed pumpkin
- 3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 1 ½ cups sugar (I used powdered sugar)
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- (Optional: ½ pinch ginger, pinch of allspice)
- 2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

For Crust:

In a medium bowl, combine crumbs, sugar and cinnamon (Optional, spices). Add melted butter. Press down flat into a 9-inch springform pan. Set aside.

For filling:

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add pumpkin puree, eggs, egg yolk, sour cream, sugar and spices. Add flour and vanilla. Beat together until well combined.

Pour into crust. Spread out evenly and place in water bath, and then in oven. Bake for 1 hour.

Remove from the oven and let sit for 15 minutes. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 4 hours. And that's it! Happy eating!!!

Club calendar

American Sign Language club

The American Sign Language club's purpose is to provide "an environment outside of a classroom to practice and learn American Sign Language." It meets on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in JKB 111.

Paramedic Association

The Mat-Su College Paramedic Association is open to students in or interested in the college's paramedic program. Meeting times are not yet announced.

Dance club

The dance club is a great way to meet fellow students and learn to dance. Meetings (with lots of dancing and music) are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 PM in FSM 212.

Japanese study club

Japanese is a hard language to learn. Make it a little easier by joining the Japanese study club. Meeting times to be announced later.

Mat-Su Carbon Crew

The Mat-Su Carbon Crew has taken on many projects that have made Mat-Su college a greener place. If you're interested in doing something for sustainability, come to a meeting on Wednesdays from 2-3 PM in Snodgrass 124.

Metl Hedz

The Metl Hedz club shares metalworking ideas, designs, and tips. They also offer additional lab time outside of the metalsmithing classes. They meet on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 PM in FSM 208.

Mat-Su Monitor

The Mat-Su Monitor club puts out the paper you're reading right now. The Monitor club needs writers of all kinds. If you don't like writing, come and take on one of the many tasks that needs doing, like graphic design, photography, or handling our finances. If you don't like doing anything, you can come and *look* at our cookies and candy. The club meets Mondays and Thursdays from 12-12:50 in library room 213.

Palette Art Club

The new campus art club hasn't yet announced meeting times, but they're sure to be planning something interesting. Hopefully we'll have more to report next issue.

Mat-Su Gay Straight Alliance

"The Mat-Su Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) is a student club that provides a safe, productive, and fun environment for all students to get together, support each other, talk about issues related to sexual orientation and work together to promote equality." Meeting times are yet to be announced.

Chess club

The chess club meets from 4-5:15 PM in library room 213. These guys get their kicks above the waistline.

Student Government

Student government is a body advocating for students. They do everything from fighting for fairer tuition and fees to sponsoring dances, holiday events, and snacks during finals. Become a member by attending a meeting on Wednesdays from 11:50-12:50 in FSM 105.

Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is an international honors society for two-year college students. The club has a variety of ideas on what they might do this year, ranging from screening short films to volunteering around the community. Membership in the club is open to those with a good GPA. MembershipS looks good on a resume or CV (especially if you sfill one of the open leadership positions). See their bulletin board near the JKB entrance for more information.

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Settle it in Smash! Super Smash Bros. 3DS Review

By: Dr. Wily

Platforms: Nintendo 3DS, Wii U Rating: E-10

Since 1998, Super Smash Brothers has established itself as one of Nintendo's greatest and most popular franchises. Notable for its unique fighting system and scores of recognizable characters mixed with new creations, Super Smash Brothers has captivated since the beginning. Its current incarnation has been split into two different versions. One for the handheld Nintendo 3DS and the new Wii U. Both versions feature the same cast, but have differences in stages, music, collectibles and gameplay modes. The version reviewed here is the 3DS version.

IT'S ON LIKE YOU KNOW WHO!

The Nintendo 3DS version is special because it marks the first time in the series that gamers can play on a portable handheld console. The game pushes the 3DS to its limits, but that's far from a bad thing. The graphics are crisp and make good use of the 3D technology. They are obviously different from the bigger and more complex HD graphics of the Wii U version. Hardware limitations aside, the graphics look as if someone painted the entire game. Mario and co. look like a living Van Gogh painting as they beat each other senseless for your enjoyment. The gameplay runs at a smooth 60FPS even at full 3D blast, with the gameplay frantic and fun as always. Four players can fight either locally or online with their friends. There are tons of new characters to choose from. Fan favorites like Ness and Meta Knight return, while newcomers like Robin and Greninja bring a fresh new twist to a classic series.

Each fighter comes with their own special moves and styles. Robin's spell books and swords break after extended use, while Lucario deals more hurt the more his damage increases. Shulk can switch between five different abilities and use his Monado Arts to switch up his attacks. Each fighter also comes with a special finishing move called a Final Smash that either does enormous damage or switches up gameplay. Two examples are Zero Suit Samus, who hops into her ship to blast enemies, and Princess Peach, who dances across the stage and lulls foes to sleep, allowing her to recover health with the fruit that appears. Guest characters also appear, making the already stacked game even more enjoyable. Sonic the Hedgehog, Mega Man, and Pac Man can be played and are very fun to use.

The 3DS version comes with its own little quirks to stand alongside the Wii U counterpart. One such quirk is Smash Run. Smash Run is a five minute power up grabbing mad dash against legions of enemies from different games. Goombas,

Continued on page 15

YOUR CLUB'S AD COULD BE HERE!

CONTACT THE MAT-SU MONITOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NFL Mock Re-Draft 2014 Original Draft Pick by team

By Sam Ouellette

1. Houston Texans Jadeveon Clowney DE South Carolina

2 St. Louis Rams Greg Robinson OT Auburn

3 Jacksonville Jaguars Blake Bortles QB UCF

4 Buffalo Bills Sammy Watkins WR Clemson

5 Oakland Raiders Khalil Mack OLB Buffalo

6 Atlanta Falcons Jake Matthews OT Texas A&M

7 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Mike Evans WR Texas A&M

8 Cleveland Browns Justin Gilbert CB Oklahoma State

9 Minnesota Vikings Anthony Barr OLB UCLA

10 Detroit Lions Eric Ebron TE North Carolina

11 Tennessee Titans Taylor Lewan OT Michigan

12 New York Giants Odell Beckham Jr. WR LSU

13 St. Louis Rams Aaron Donald DT Pittsburgh

14 Chicago Bears Kyle Fuller CB Virginia Tech

15 Pittsburgh Steelers Ryan Shazier OLB Ohio State

16 Dallas Cowboys Zack Martin OL Notre Dame

17 Baltimore Ravens C.J. Mosley ILB Alabama

18 New York Jets Calvin Pryor S Louisville

19 Miami Dolphins Ja'wuan James OT Tennessee

20 New Orleans Saints Brandin Cooks WR Oregon State

21 Green Bay Packers Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix S Alabama

22 Cleveland Browns Johnny Manziel QB Texas A&M

23 Kansas City Chiefs Dee Ford DE Auburn

24 Cincinnati Bengals Darqueze Dennard CB Michigan State

25 San Diego Chargers Jason Verrett CB TCU

26 Philadelphia Eagles Marcus Smith OLB Louisville

27 Arizona Cardinals Deone Bucannon S Washington State

28 Carolina Panthers Kelvin Benjamin WR Florida State

29 New England Patriots Dominique Easley DT Florida

30 San Francisco 49ers Jimmie Ward S Northern Illinois

31 Denver Broncos Bradley Roby CB Ohio State

32 Minnesota Vikings Teddy Bridgewater QB Louisville

Re-Draft

1. Houston Texans Blake Bortles QB UCF

With Clowney ineffective to this point and an injury prone risk the better move would be a QB to replace Schaub and Bortles is the best QB option in this draft

2 St. Louis Rams Jake Mathews OT Texas A&M

Greg Robinson has had an unspectacular season after being moved to guard and second on the depth chart Jack Mathews is a much better option here

3 Jacksonville Jaguars Teddy Bridgewater QB Louisville

With Bortles picked up by Houston the Jaguars look elsewhere for their QB of the future in Teddy Bridgewater

4 Buffalo Bills Sammy Watkins WR Clemson (same)

Looking to bolster their weak WR corps Buffalo picks up a much needed weapon

5 Oakland Raiders Zach Martin OL Notre Dame

The Raiders are desperately in need of offensive line help and Martin gives them a solid young prospect that can pay immediate dividends

6 Atlanta Falcons Kyle Fuller CB Virginia Tech

Needing to bolster their secondary the Falcons pick up Fuller who has made a promising debut his rookie season and making an early play for Defensive Rookie of the year.

7 Tampa Bay Buccaneers Mike Evans WR Texas A&M (same)

The Bucs pick up Evans to play on the other side of Vincent Jackson giving QB Josh Mccown two very good weapons

8 Cleveland Browns Justin Gilbert CB Oklahoma State (same)

The Browns trade up and nab Justin Gilbert to pair up with Joe Haden making for a solid CB corps

9 Minnesota Vikings Khalil Mack OLB Buffalo

Coolest sports team ever. Vikings v Green Bay by Joe Bielawa. https://flic.kr/p/dG8hEN

The more experienced and versatile OLB in this draft Mack is a better option than Barr

10 Detroit Lions Darqueze Dennard CB Michigan State

A weak secondary gets a much needed upgrade with Dennard added to the equation in the backfield

11 Tennessee Titans Brandin Cooks WR Oregon State

12 New York Giants Taylor Lewan OT Michigan

13 St. Louis Rams Kelvin Benjamin WR Florida State

14 Chicago Bears Ha-Ha Clinton-Dix S Alabama

15 Pittsburgh Steelers Ryan Shazier OLB Ohio State (same)

16 Dallas Cowboys Calvin Pryor S Louisville

17 Baltimore Ravens C.J. Mosley ILB Alabama (same)

18 New York Jets Jadeveon Clowney DE South Carolina

19 Miami Dolphins Gabe Jackson OG Mississippi ST.

20 New Orleans Saints Jordan Mathews WR Vanderbilt

21 Green Bay Packers Anthony Barr OLB U.C.L.A

22 Cleveland Browns Johnny Manziel QB Texas A&M (same)

23 Kansas City Chiefs Dee Ford DE Auburn

24 Cincinnati Bengals Aaron Donald DT Pittsburgh

25 San Diego Chargers Jason Verrett CB TCU (same)

26 Philadelphia Eagles Marquise Lee WR U.S.C.

27 Arizona Cardinals Eric Ebron TE North Carolina

28 Carolina Panthers Odell Beckham Jr. WR LSU

29 New England Patriots Louis Nix III

30 San Francisco 49ers Jimmie Ward S Northern Illinois

31 Denver Broncos Bradley Roby CB Ohio State.

32 Seattle Seahawks (With Bridgewater gone Minnesota does not trade up) Lamarcus Joyner CB Florida St.

The Mat-Su Monitor Team

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Continued from page 1 *Glenn Massay Theater*

feature Alaskan women filmmakers. There will also be a silent auction, and any donations are welcome.

Sonya Babcock Dance Studio in Wasilla is to hold a spring recital with her semi-professional troop, and the Machetanz Art Festival is combining the theater venue and the campus to make a three day affair this year, and will be featuring a keynote speaker. Additionally there are various seminars scheduled with Mat-Su Food Bank and Alaska Family Services. Mat-Su Concert Band has two concerts on the agenda for spring, and let us not forget the commencement ceremony, to be held in the auditorium this year!

Sale is anxious to try some new things in the future, such as an old western film night, featuring some of the films that our younger folks have never seen on the big screen. He's also excited about doing the college's own productions. "That's the main thing," he says. Children's plays, musicals and regular plays are what means. He's also hoping to see more dance and music classes at the college now that we have the theater. Some students have their own bands, and the director looks forward to being able to showcase them. Sale says any events will be booked around the regular class schedule, as some class lectures will be held in the theater on weekdays, and that naturally takes precedence.

All revenue generated from the theater will go back into the cost of running it. Sale hopes to keep it booked throughout the year, but feels selling tickets may be tough here in Alaska in the summertime. He also acknowledged that running a theater is sort of a dichotomy in that if you price the tickets too high, you don't sell many, but if you price them too low, you'll sell a lot, but won't make money. "It's a tricky balance," he says. Sale considers it his mission to make the theater just as full as the movies. "You can be too artsy, a lot of people try to be too artsy," adding that "it's a strange thing—audiences love commercial—if you do 'Wicked,' they'll show up, but if you do something more obscure, they don't want to come."

So there you have it—it sounds like a lot of wonderful events have been planned. it won't be long now, the dfoors will be open, and we'll all be sitting in the new theater enjoying the show!

The Night of the Krampus

Long ago, in a land far away
Santa was annoyed, feeling irate
For he had his list, and he'd read it twice
More children had been naughty, and few had been nice

"This is abysmal!" he said aloud
"I must teach these children a lesson!
But how?"
He tossed around idea and thought
Until suddenly he stood
He had found the perfect plot

He grabbed his coat, pulled on his hat
An ran out into the snow
To go find where the Krampus sat

Now the Krampus preferred to be alone
He hated everyone and everything
So he lived in a cave out in the snow
When Santa arrived for a visit
You can only imagine
The Krampus was a little less than pleasant

Not only was the Krampus mean
His appearance was frightening as well
And Santa was horrified at what was seen
The Krampus stood over 7 feet
His hooves were cloven
His breath reeked of pine and rotten meat
He was coated with black fur and mold
His fingers were long with black claws
But that wasn't the scariest thing to behold

What Santa noticed instead
Were the massive brown ram horns
Growing from his head
The Krampus wasn't having the best day
And he was crankier than usual
But Santa implored him to hear what he had to say

So St. Nick struck a deal most curious indeed
It was decided that they would both visit houses that Christmas Eve

On the night of the 24th of December
Santa planned on teaching a lesson
That bad children would do well to remember

Santa and the Krampus' bags were both full
Santa's with presents
The Krampus' with coal

Santa gave the Krampus the list of the bad
And the Krampus chuckled
At the fun to be had

So he picked up his sack
And clutched his birch whip
And strode toward the town
With chains clanging at his hip

He entered the houses one by one
Filled each stocking with some coal
But that was the beginning of his fun

Next, he strode up stairs and down halls
Clutching his whip
His chains clanging and hitting the walls

The children woke with a fright
Most of them knew
Santa wasn't the one visiting that night

They heard the hooves stamping on the floor
The sounds grew louder
Until they stopped at the door

The doors all opened with a creak
The naughty children were scared
And pulled their blankets up to their cheek
The Krampus burst through the door
Red eyes glowing in the dark
His yellow teeth sharp as he opened his mouth to roar

He pointed his birch whip at the scared child
And said, "I have come for you"
In a voice most wild

"You have been naughty! You have sinned
I have come tonight
To teach you a lesson"

He snatched the kids right of their beds
And switched all of their hides
Until their skin was red

"This is what you get as a reward"
He said
"Be nice. Or I shall be back to give you more!"
Krampus wasn't done
There was one more thing
That had to be done

One child who had been nothing but mean
Was stuffed in his sack
Soon to be eaten
Krampus was stopped by St. Nick
So he put the child back
But left him with a lick

"You better beware!
If I see you again next year,
St. Nick won't be there."

The night was long and full of cries
But Santa was happy
At the end of the night

"Good work Krampus!"
He said with glee,
"You have done a great service this Christmas!"

Santa was so pleased by what they achieved
That he said to the Krampus
"Let's do this again next Christmas eve!"

Santa's plan worked, for the very next year
The nice list was overflowing
And come Christmas Eve, there was hardly a tear

Eventually, the Krampus quit being so rude
And through the years
He's changed his attitude
Now he enjoys streets and flame
And in Germany
He even gets his own parade

Children no longer fear his scary sight
They welcome him
And promise to be nice

So ends the story of Santa and Krampus
Working together
To bring joy and fear to every Christmas

Upcoming events:

November 10: Spring registration begins.
November 11: Veterans Day ceremony in front of FSM building at noon.
November 14: Withdrawal deadline.
November 18: Niqipiaq Potluck and Presentation on Alaska Native Nutrition Today. 5 PM in Cafeteria.
November 21: Student Art Show begins in FSM 200.
November 25-29: Thanksgiving break.
December 13: Fall semester ends.
December 18: Grades available on UAOnline.
December 25-January 4: Campus closed for Winter Break.

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Continued from page 12 *Super Smash*

Bullet Bills, and Koopa Troopas from the Mario series will combine with Metroids, Pokemon, and Kremlings to stop you from collecting as many stats as possible. You could just jump in with a favorite character, but wait! This time instead of just choosing a fighter to play as, you get to customize them! Players can choose from tons of special gear to give to their chosen fighter to boost attack, defense, or speed. Each piece of gear raises one stat and decreases the other. It's fun to mix and match according to your play style, but finding an all-around type is kind of difficult because the items are randomly generated and you could end up getting the same gear more than once.

You also get to change your fighter's special moves. There are three in each type, and they are fun to mix and switch up your style. However, they are really rare and usually are given out at the end of Smash Run. Even then, you might not get a move at all, or if you do, it's for a character you don't use often.

Players also get to add powers to their fighter. Want Mario to become invincible without a star? You can do that. Do you want Link to have two extra swords protecting him? You can do that too. Or how about giving Captain Falcon the ability to deal massive amounts of damage at the expense of his own health? You can do that as well. The problem with powers is that it depends on how big or small your character is and what gear you have equipped. Larger characters like Bowser or Ganondorf can carry more powers, while smaller characters like Mr. Game and Watch or Jigglypuff can carry less. Medium sized characters like Robin and Little Mac strike a good balance between gear and weight. Even then, it still depends on how you play and what you use.

One issue with Smash Run is that you never know how it's going to end. You spend five minutes running around and beating up foes only to come up short because you didn't grab enough speed boosts to win the upcoming race. It would have been nice to allow users to change the ending match type or extend the time limit, but those options are not available. The enemies are relentless and can be frustrating to fight, especially if you're just starting out. I recommend playing the other modes to get more gear, or using a fighter you play as well.

Single player has also been revamped. Classic mode now allows you to choose which path to take, instead of fighting enemies to the end. The path chosen represents how hard the match is going to be. Blue is the easiest, while Green is normal and Red is hard. You get to spin a roulette wheel to choose a reward, but often the wheel stops at nothing. It's disappointing too, because you could miss out on a lot of rewards for not stopping it in time. The good news is that you get rewards regardless if you stop the wheel. You might even get that reward you wanted that the wheel skipped! When you get to the end of the road, be prepared to fight the final bosses. The secret boss is hard but he's worth the fight. If you do manage to best him, give yourself a hand.

All Star Mode has returned, and it's just as good as it was the first time. Players fight the entire roster according to when they first were created. Players get three health items but nothing more. Can you defeat the entire cast? If that's not your cup of tea, try out Stadium! Stadium has three special game modes. Target Smash has been replaced with Target Blast, but other than that the modes are the same. Fight legions of foes using your chosen fighter! Hit the Sandbag with the baseball bat after racking up the damage! Beat up a bomb before sending it flying into a pile of crates and targets, trying to get the best high score. Stadium is a lot of fun, and can offer different alternatives from Classic and All Star.

Trophies are also back, and they are more special and diverse than ever. Collect 685 different trophies of handheld games and characters. Did your favorite character not make the roster? Don't worry, there's probably a trophy version! You can get trophies by playing the single player modes and even randomly during matches and Smash Run. Or, you could play Trophy Rush, which pits you against a horde of dangerous boxes falling from the sky. Hit bombs to cause a chain explosion and get combos. The higher the combo, the higher the rewards!

Perhaps the most exciting feature of Smash is the online mode. Here the player has two options. They can play with their friends or they can play with anyone With Friends, you can play against those people you have registered on your 3DS console. With Anyone, you get two different versions. For Fun has most of the stages and items activated. Battle records are not recorded. Just go out there and have fun! This mode is recommended for novice players. For Glory is different. For Glory does indeed record wins and losses. It also disables items except the Smash Ball and turns all stages into generic platforms. Fight to win and grab that ball! This mode is recommended for more experienced players. Conquest Mode has also been introduced. Players pick from two opposing sides. Each side has a character or series pitted against each other. Who's the best mascot? If you play as the chosen characters online in For Fun or For Glory, you can get points to decide who the winner is! If you don't like to fight, you can choose to watch others fight. In Spectate Mode, you can watch battles from all over the world, and bet to see who will win. If your chosen fighter wins a match, you can bet it all on him or her a second time and get even more gold. If you lose, you lose the whole pot! It's exciting to bet and see who will win. Sometimes the least likely candidate pulls off a huge underdog victory!

In conclusion, Smash Bros. 3DS is everything fans could have hoped for. It has everything that has carried the series this far and throws in some new and appreciated bonuses. Unfortunately, hardware limitations limit the creativity but it's more than made up for with the addition of online play and Smash Run. Online is fun when it works, because lag and lack of a stable connection between players can lead to disconnections. Luckily if you have a strong connection you should be able to have a fun time. Overall, this game is fantastic despite some flaws and deserves to be in every Nintendo fan's library.

Continued from page 2 *Jan Vanderveer*

effort into moving to Alaska. Once she made it to Alaska she lived out her years in a log cabin that she had built in the woods outside of Palmer. She enjoyed Alaska, made many friends and traveled to several remote locations.

Jan was an avid baseball fan. She pitched softball during her time in South Dakota. She held season tickets to the Mat-Su Miners and she threw out the first pitch for the team's 2013 season, being quite qualified to do so.

Here's what a few students had to say about her:"I took Jan Vandever for College Algebra, and didn't stop until I ran out of classes I could take with her (Calc II). She is absolutely amazing. One of the best teachers I've ever had in my life."

"If you really want to learn and improve your math skills she is the teacher to have! Super picky with notation, but pushes students in the assumption that they will go on to higher math, and points out where current math will be used in further courses. She is very helpful, stays after class often and helps with anything I need."

"Professor Vandever is tough,there is no doubt about that. BUT, she wants to make sure her students understand the material. She is flexible with her grading. If you don't skip class and if you ask questions and show interest, she will offer plenty of help. She is always available for questions and encourages students to take advantage of that."

"Awesome teacher! I would take, although be prepared to work your butt off, because she's not easy, but you learn so much, and she's a helpful teacher."

"KEEP DR. VANDEVER AROUND FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE SHE IS THE BEST MATH PROFESSOR THAT I HAVE EVER BEEN EXPOSED TO !!!!!!"

Comments via *www.ratemyprofessors.com*

This obituary is printed in Comic Sans, Jan's favorite font.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed thoughrout the Valley. We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$125	$175
1/2 page	$175	$225
Full page	$275	$300
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call 745-9758.

Continued from page 1 *Art Around Campus*

Places" requires one percent of the capital construction costs of public buildings to be spent on the acquisition and permanent installation of artwork. Sale says the one percent translates to around $80,000.00, available for artwork.

According to Sale, no art has been chosen yet for the new building, and he is leaving all possibilities "open to whatever comes along that is amazing." He hopes to find a sculpture for the front of the building, but is agreeable to whatever the committee chooses. He added that a spot has been built into the architecture of the lobby that will house one of the Machetanz paintings that has never before been displayed at the college.

In talking with Sale, I learned of the many aspects of theater that many people don't think of as art. In addition to the actual acting and performances, there is also scene design and painting, props design, costume design, sound, makeup, and a whole classification of its own, light painting, which is essentially coloring the stage with light, to get the effect desired.

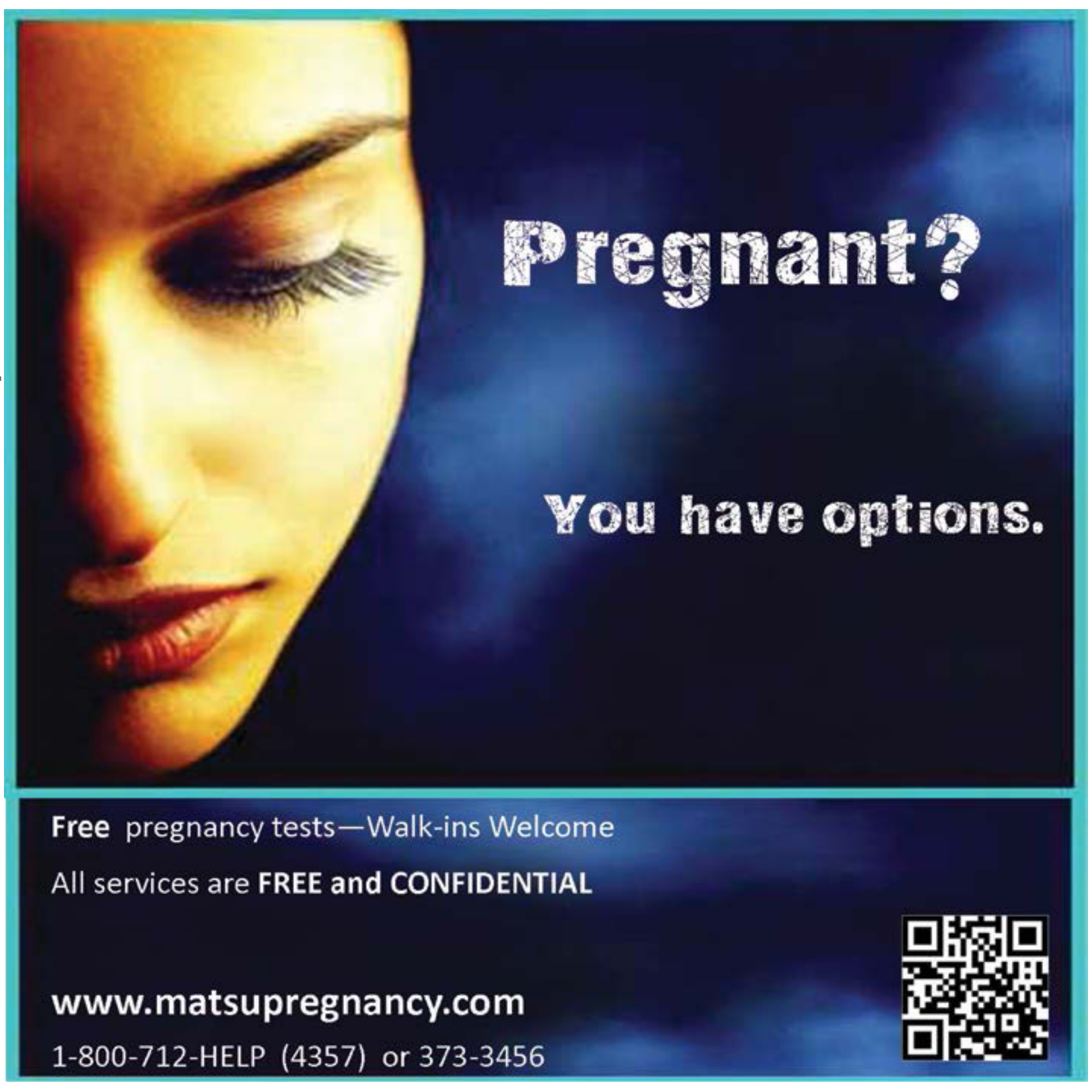
My next stop was to see Felicia Desimini, the art department coordinator. As is to be expected of a department head, she was quite busy, but graciously took time to talk to me. I had an opportunity to see a few of the students working at their craft, as well as snap a few photos. Each student is at a different level, and working at his or her own pace. Desimini says that her main goal as an art teacher is to nurture the students' ability, and also their confidence. She uses a technique called, "empathetic critique" which, she says, "Is more about a conversation about their work, and allows them to get feedback and positivity, and that helps them to attempt the next step, or at least experiment." Desimini says, "It's all about the process; It's not always about talent; just not giving up."

Desimini hopes to see the art department at the college expand. She would like to see, among other things, dance classes. "The Fundamentals of Modern Dance" is slated for the spring semester. Her program stresses the academics of art, but she'd also like to see more design courses to what is already offered--2D and color design. Desimini's dream for the Mat-Su College is to be a support foundation program where the base art classes are taught and subsequent classes are taken at the Anchorage campus. As well as drawing and painting, the Mat-Su college art department also offers jewelry casting, photography, stained glass, and ceramics classes.

As my roaming continued, I started really noticing all the artwork on campus, of which there is a fair amount, some by students as well as other artists. There are a variety of quilts, paintings, and sculptures. One of my favorite pieces on campus is: "Harkening Spirit" by Gene Stotts, a statue located outside of the main lobby, FSM building. This piece was purchased with the one percent for art commission. Much of the art on the walls of the college is by former students, but there is also a fair amount of artwork by Fred Machetanz, for whom the Fred and Sara Machetanz building was named. The Machetanz family has been a contributor to keeping the arts alive at the college through a $64,000 endowed scholarship fund, according to the book, "The Art of Mat-Su College," by Ruthmarie Jacob, Erin Leaders, and Vivian Ramsey. Other works around the college have been donated by various artists, including Dean M. Larson, who has taught at the Machetanz Art Festival, held each year at the college in June.

There is also the Student Juried Art Show, which is held at least once per year, giving students a chance to display their work to the public and have it judged by an outside source hired by the college. First prize for the Juried Art Show is usually that the piece is purchased from the winning student and put on display at Mat-Su College (The Art of Mat-Su College).

All in all, my journey was very enjoyable and informative, one I am glad took. I would invite you to take a stroll and stop and see the artwork. It's worth the time spent to nurture your soul with the creativity of another.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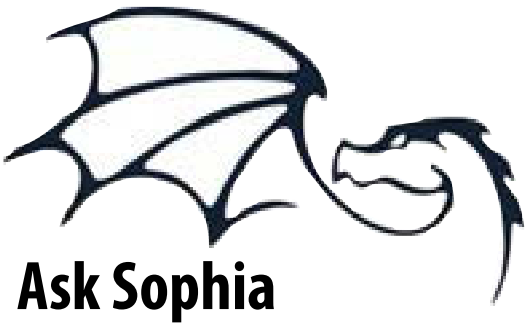

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. II you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box at the library front desk.

Q. Dear Sophia: Why do my female friends put me in the friendzone?

Dear "Friendzoned,"

Some girls (or guys) either don't want to date at the moment or you just aren't the person they are looking for at the present time. You shouldn't take it offensively if your friend(s) does not want to date you. In fact, don't even look at it as a "zone." Your friend does not put you there--you do. Meaning, there is nothing wrong with "just being friends." No matter how cheesy it sounds, when the right person comes along (even if it isn't forever), you will know it.

Q. Dear Sophia: So I went out with this guy once and now he's all clingy. He wants to be in a relationship and is all interested in getting married and stuff. What did I do to deserve this?

Dear Uninterested,

Well, you two are obviously on very different pages. You seem to be at a moment in your life where you want to go out and have fun, whereas he is at a moment in his life where he wants to settle down. Just tell him that you are not interested--and even if you have told him, make it very clear to him that you are not interested in a serious relationship at the current time. If he remains clingy, you need to find a clearer route to make him realize that you are not interested.

Q. Dear Sophia: I feel like a huge disappointment. I never seem to focus and get my school and chores done in a timely manner. What do fao [sic]?

Dear friend,

I do not know how your life is on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, I cannot give particular advice, but I can give you some pointers. One, try and make a timetable for your in-class sessions, homework slots, and chore slots. Make it tentative, otherwise you will become stressed if you stray from the timetable. Be sure to leave space in between each slot for driving time, eating time, friend time, etc. Two, if that doesn't seem like something you want to do, try setting aside one or two particular days (e.g. Saturday) just for homework (or chores). This allows you to do your chores (or homework) whenever you feel you have time (well, maybe). If neither of these work for you, put an updated "question" in the Ask Sophia box and I will think of something else to advise.

Q. Dear Sophia: Magical unicorn-meat tacos scare me! Help me through this troubling time.

Dear good sir,

Magical unicorn-meat tacos scare me as well. Perhaps we should seek help from the flying-ninja tacos in Tacoland.

HAPPY HOLIDAY

M	S	A	T	H	A	N	K	F	U	L	G
E	R	F	I	B	A	K	E	G	E	R	N
M	E	A	N	P	M	R	O	J	A	Y	O
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Y	T	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	P	I	E
S	A	W	O	R	C	E	R	A	C	S	K

Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ !

YUM	LEFTOVERS	MEMORIES	GRAVY	STUFFING
PUMPKIN PIE	HARVEST	GRANDPARENTS	BAKE	CRANBERRIES
CORNUCOPIA	FAMILY	PIES	HAM	YAMS
SCARECROW	THANKFUL	GOURDS	TASTY	VACATION

CRYPT-A-QUOTE

Here's how it works: A R C T I C D R A G O N

is B S D U J D E S B H P O

One letter stands for another in this example the letter B stands for the letter A so all the Bs stand for the letter A, Ds stand for C, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, and word length are all clues.

P A W S V L M N M N L D D W H B L E Q A V D

Y B L H X S W S V X S ? W S V U B L G M .

Y . M D N R N E H U H S E N

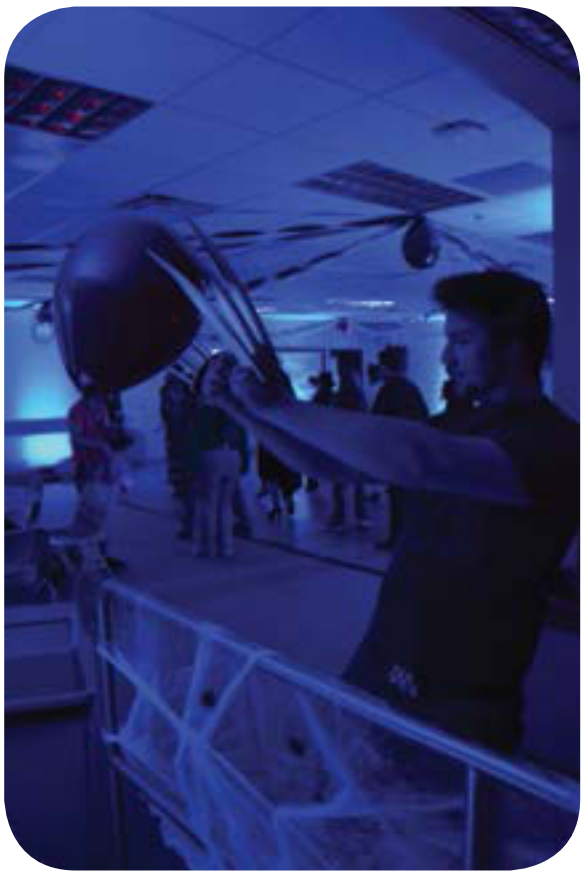
NOW THAT'S PUNNY

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

When chemists die, they barium.

On Friday, October 24th, Mat-Su College held its first-ever Halloween dance. For three hours, somewhere around 40 costumed students danced to blaring pop music. A festive Halloween atmosphere was provided by extensive decorations, as well as a fog machine, effective lighting, and a playlist that included some seasonal classics. (Michael Jackson's 'Thriller' still gets them moving.)



The Student Government sponsored the dance. Dance Club organized everything, from hiring a DJ and renting a dance floor to converting the cafeteria into a dance space. It is hoped that this will be an annual event, complementing the already-annual spring dance. Look for an announcement of the next dance in a Spring issue of the Mat-Su Monitor.

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MSC
Spring semester begins January 12—register now!